

Appl. No. 10/708,464
Reply to Office action of February 01, 2008

REMARKS

Request for Continued Examination:

- 5 The applicant respectfully requests continued examination of the above-indicated application as per 37 CFR 1.114.

Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1, 11, 20, 30, and 39 have been amended.

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- Claims 1 and 20 have been amended to include emphasis on allowing access to “all the peripheral devices using the single port” (claims 1 and 20). As referenced in the Reply to Office Action dated January 21, 2008, “paragraphs [0035] through [0037] describe allowing the host to access all devices through a single port” (page 12). In
15 regards to the patentability of currently amended claims 1 and 20, applicant has submitted on record in the Reply to Office Action that Jones “does not teach allowing the host to access all of ‘the peripheral devices using the single port’ (claim 1)” (page 14). No new matter has been entered in claims 1 and 20.

- 20 In Claims 11 and 30, the limitations have been amended to describe access to “the M peripheral devices concurrently using the single port” (claims 11 and 30), to clarify that the present invention allows the host to access as many devices as are connected through that single port. As previously presented in the Reply to Office Action dated January 21, 2008, applicant asserts on page 14 (emphases added) that
25 Jones teaches “the host may only access two of the devices (only two of 62, 64, 66, and 68, for example) at any time. The remaining devices will be inaccessible to the host until the IDE controller disconnects one device in order to accommodate another.” In contrast, the present invention allows more than N devices “to be concurrently accessible to the host” (page 14). No new matter is entered.

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Claim 39 has also been amended in the attached Listing of Claims to further clarify the present invention "allows the host to access all the M peripheral devices concurrently using the single port" (claim 39). The amendments to claim 39 should be found patentable over prior arts for at least the same reasons as presented for claims 1, 11,
5 20, and 30 above. No new matter has been introduced in claim 39.

Claims 49-51 have been added.

In new independent claim 49, a method similar to that claimed in amended claim
10 39 is presented for specifically "accessing a plurality of serial interface peripheral devices from a host" (claim 49, emphasis added). Regarding the patentability of claim 49, Jones teaches providing a host with access to different specifications of flash memories (CompactFlash, MMC/SD, SmartMedia, Memory Stick, etc.) in a
15 peripheral device through a single IDE connection 46, as shown in FIG. 9 of Jones. As such, the teachings of Jones focus on the IDE chip and the various communications specifications and/or pins for the flash memory formats (examples shown in FIG. 9 and FIG. 4A-4E). In contrast, by utilizing the serial interface controller 612 of the present invention (IDE, in this example), the host is given simultaneous access to a
20 plurality of serial interface peripheral devices through just a single port, even more than the predetermined interconnection means (IDE or SATA) is designed to handle in total for any channel, as shown in FIG. 6. The present invention also provides access to other IDE/SATA peripheral devices – such as optical pick-up 210 and other devices 608 – each of which is connected to the IDE/SATA controller chip 612. From the disclosure, by changing its interaction with HOST (in a command or register), one can
25 achieve the objective of reading/writing to/from the different IDE/SATA peripheral devices. Thus, the present invention is clearly different from the teachings of Jones' prior art flash drive. In this light, the device taught by Jones can be implemented as just one of the IDE peripheral devices connecting to the IDE/SATA controller chip 612 of the present invention. Given the above, applicant asserts that claim 49 should be
30 found patentable over prior art.

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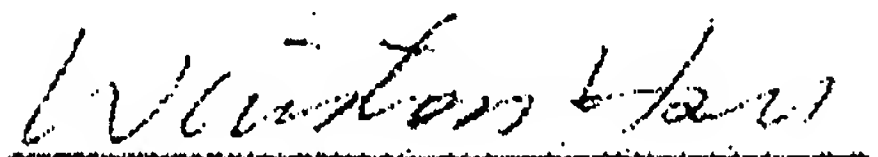
Claims 50 and 51 respectively add the further limitations of modifying predetermined existing fields and of directly transferring data from one device to a second device. These claims' limitations were already present in other existing claims, and are dependent upon base claim 49, and as such should be found patentable for at least the same reasons presented for claim 49. No new matter has been added.

No new matter has been introduced in claims 49-51, and consideration of newly entered claims 49-51 is respectfully requested.

Consideration of currently amended claims 1, 11, 20, 30, and 39 and of newly added claims 49-51 is respectfully requested.

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Sincerely yours,



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Note: Please leave a message in my voice mail if you need to talk to me. (The time in D.C. is 13 hours behind the Taiwan time, i.e. 9 AM in D.C. = 10 PM in Taiwan.)